Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 IO-10 OMB-01 FRB-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3562

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PASS TREASURY/BUSHNELL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, AORG, IMF, IBRD, RO SUBJECT: WORLD BANK/IMF PROPOSALS TO INCREASE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AND ALTERNATES SALARIES

REF: STATE 155396

- 1. EMBASSY ADDRESSED COPIES OF SIMON LETTER TO FLOREA DUMITRESCU, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND GOVERNOR OF IMF AND IBRD, AND TO DEPUTY GOVERNORS MALINSCHI (NATIONAL BANK) AND DIAMANDOPOL (INVESTMENT BANK), WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH OPERATIONS OF IMF AND IBRD RESPECTIVELY. EMBOFF DELIVERED LETTERS AND MADE POINTS REFTEL IN MEETINGS WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR CLEMENT GAVRILESCU, INVESTMENT BANK, JULY 3, DIRECTOR NICOLAE SECELEANU, NATIONAL BANK, JULY 7, AND DIRECTOR BUJOR DRAGNEA, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, JULY 15.
- 2. DRAGNEA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING ROMANIAN POSITION. ALTHOUGH HE HAD HAD OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY SIMON LETTER AND COMMENTS OF THE TWO ROMANIAN BANKS BEFORE JULY 15 MEETING, HE SAID DECISION ON ROMANIAN'S POSITION WOULD BE TAKEN AT VERY HIGH LEVEL (IMPLYING HIGHER THAN GOVERNOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DUMITRESCU) AND THAT EVERYONE WAS CONCENTRATING ON

ROMANIA'S FLOODS AND THEIR ECONOMIC IMPACT. NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN, NOR COULD HE ANTICIPATE WHEN IT WOULD BE, DESPITE SHORT TIME REMAINING BEFORE EXPECTED VOTE. HE PROMISED TO NOTIFY EMBASSY WHEN DECISION TAKEN.

3. OFFICIALS AT BOTH INVESTMENT BANK AND MIN FINANCE NOTED THAT ROMANIA STILL CONSIDERED ITSELF A NEW MEMBER OF THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS AND WOULD MOVE VERY CAUTIOUSLY ON THIS ISSUE. GAVRILESCU NOTED THAT TOTAL COST OF SALARY INCREASES WOULD NOT BE GREAT, BUT EMBOFF REPLIED THAT U.S. CONSIDERED THE QUESTION ONE OF PRINCIPLE AND NOT ONE OF EXPENSES. DRAGNEA ASKED IF EMBOFF WERE AWARE OF POSITION OF OTHER COUNTRIES (HE WAS NOT) AND IMPLIED THAT THIS WOULD BE A FACTOR IN ROMANIA'S CONSIDERATION.

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